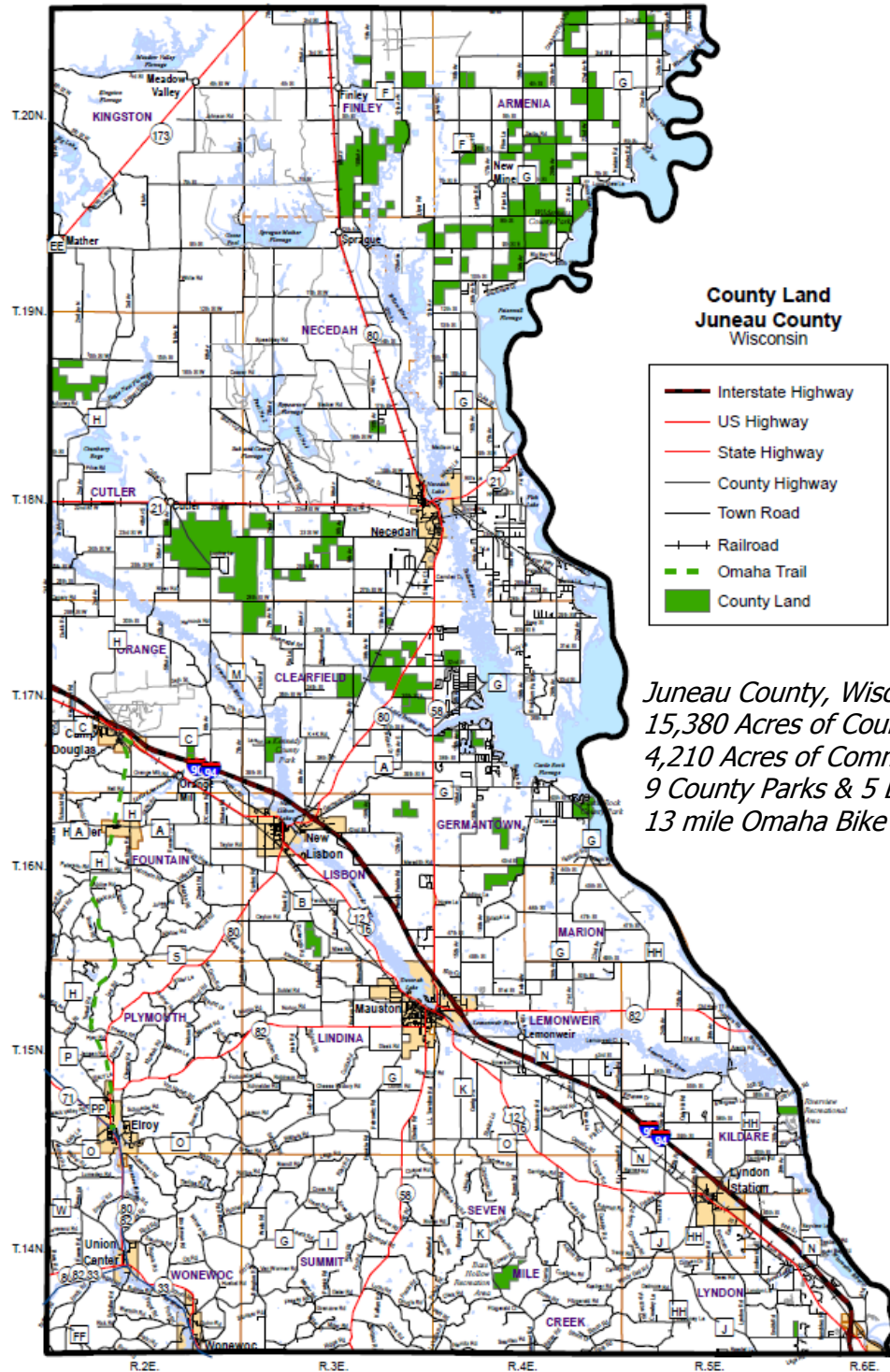


Juneau County Land, Forestry & Parks Department

650 Prairie Street, Mauston, WI 53948

2010 Annual Report



Juneau County, Wisconsin
15,380 Acres of County Forest
4,210 Acres of Community Forest
9 County Parks & 5 Boat Landings
13 mile Omaha Bike Trail

Juneau County**Land, Forestry, Parks & Zoning Committee**

Jerry Niles

David Arnold

Beverly Larson

Edmund Wafle

Margaret Marchetti

Land, Forestry & Parks Department Personnel

Brian Loyd, Administrator

Monty Brink, Assistant Administrator

Doug King, Park & Forestry Technician

DNR Forester

Dylan Bell, Liaison

**JUNEAU COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS
2010
ANNUAL REPORT**

This report shows our goals and accomplishments for year 2010. The work accomplished in 2010 is based on the current needs of the 15,380 acres of County Forest, 4,210 acres of Community Forest, the 9 parks and 5 boat landings, 2 swimming beaches, 12 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails, 239 miles of snowmobile trail, and 13 miles of bike trail.

OUR MISSION:

The public resources contributing to the Juneau County Forest and Park system provide a major component for addressing the ecological and socioeconomic needs of the community. The mission of the Juneau County Land, Forestry and Parks Department is to manage, conserve and protect this natural resource base on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. To achieve the mission the County Forest and Parks are managed in accordance with balancing local needs with broader State, National and global concerns through integration of sound forestry, wildlife, fisheries, endangered resources, water quality, soil conservation, and recreational practices.

2010 GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goal #1: Establish timber sales to meet our allowable cut acres and management objectives.

**Narrative:
TIMBER HARVEST**

Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law program (s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.) and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Juneau County Land, Forestry and Parks Department will implement forestry practices that promote sustainability and multiple use of the forest. To maintain this directive in 2004 the Juneau County Forestry program sought third-party certification from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship

Council (FSC). We continue to demonstrate this commitment to the principles that form the benchmark of sustainable forest management. The latest Juneau County Forest reconnaissance data was used to schedule forest stands for examination and management in 2010.

2010 Juneau County Forest harvest goals and established acres:

| <u>Acreage control:</u> | <u>2010 goal</u> | <u>Established & Sold</u> |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jack Pine-Harvest | 43 | 47 |
| Red Pine-Thinning | 238 | 227 |
| Aspen-Harvest | 31 | 49 |
| Oak-Harvest | 107 | 12 |
| Bottomland Hardwoods | 81 | 0 |
| White Pine-Harvest | 63 | 68 |
| Red Maple/Oak-Harvest (Hardwood Range) | | 84 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Total Acres: | 563 | 487 |

Goal #2: **To offer and sell our allowable cut acres to buyers of raw forest products to the extent markets allow.**

We conducted two timber sale bid opening in 2010, one in the spring and fall. The spring bid opening saw all of nine different tracts sold with an estimated 5,611 cords (12,670 tons) on 487 acres totaling \$227,907.25 in estimated revenues. We issued contracts to successful bidders and collected performance bonds for each contract.

The fall timber sale bid opening was a part of a much larger land trade project we completed with Cranberry Creek Cranberries, Inc. The trade involved exchanging 304 acres of Juneau County land for 480 acres (divided into five properties) of private timber land (red pine plantations). The trade will increase the Juneau County Forest by an additional 176 acres and add a young valuable timber resource. Another aspect of the land trade was the opportunity for the county to harvest standing timber on half of the 304 acres traded to Cranberry Creek Cranberries, Inc. The resulting fall harvest netted Juneau County more than \$120,000 dollars. We are also optimistic that the land trade will allow Cranberry Creek Cranberries, Inc. an opportunity to expand their operations and create new jobs in northern Juneau.

Goal #3: **To ensure that active timber sales are being harvested and paid for in accordance to our rules, regulations, and goals.**

During 2010 there were 7 active timber sales cut and closed out on the Juneau County Forest. Each sale was visited regularly when actively being cut. On these visits, timber sale maps were reviewed and any further direction or issue was addressed to ensure contracts were followed.

Advanced payments for stumpage were received by contractors and haul tickets were distributed accordingly. In 2010, Juneau County collected \$311,815.56 in stumpage payments from County Forest and Community Forest timber sales.

Ten percent of the County Forest timber sale revenues went back to the local townships that include county forest lands. Payments were prorated by the percent of county forest in each township.

We continue to see an increasing demand for firewood cutting from our local citizens. In 2010 firewood permits generated \$584.03.00 dollars.

Goal #4: To regenerate harvested areas back to fully stocked stands when needed.

Regenerating stands either naturally or artificially is vital to sustainable forest management and serves as the primary goal at the conclusion of any timber sale. Many species regenerate naturally, while others like jack pine and red pine need some assistance. Jack pine is a beneficial species for wildlife; it grows moderately fast, and can tolerate dry nutrient poor sites. There were no acres scheduled for jack pine seeding or artificial regeneration in 2010. Harvest schedules in 2011 indicate 184 acres will be regenerated to jack pine through seeding in 2012.

A grant through Polar Bear International will also assist us in spring 2011 by funding a 31 acre, 31,000 tree regeneration project in Armenia.

Goal #5: To provide for protection of the Juneau County Forest Lands.

During 2010, two small wildland fires totaling 5 acres burned on the Juneau County Forest. Both fires were caused by individuals, and only small brush was burned in the events. Continued cooperation with the WI DNR in prevention and suppression efforts is needed.

No new diseases or major pest outbreaks were found in 2010 on the Juneau County Forest. We continue to monitor for diseases and invasive species when working on the County Forest (Examples: Oak Wilt, Gypsy Moth, Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn, and Red Pine Pocket Decline).

Goal #6: To ensure that Juneau County is represented at the Wisconsin County Forest Association meetings.

I strongly believe the Juneau County Land, Forestry and Parks Department should continue it's commitment to the Wisconsin County Forest Association in order to stay current with legislative, certification and forest industry issues that will affect Juneau County. As Forest Administrator, I have followed the leadership of my predecessor by serving as one of the WCFA Legislative Committee members and attend as many of the meetings as possible to make sure that the decisions being made are in the best interest of Juneau County and all Wisconsin County Forests.

Remaining active with the Wisconsin County Forest Association has provided our Department with solutions to common dilemmas and insight into contentious issues pertaining to public lands management, recreation and wildlife.

Goal #7: To ensure that the County Forest Roads are maintained in a safe and useable condition.

Juneau County has two permanent primary forest roads, 3.25 miles in Armenia and 2.34 miles in Cutler and Necedah Township. In total, the 5.59 miles of county forest road qualify for the County Forest Road Aids Program and receive funding to maintain the road surface in an open and safe condition for the public. These roads often serve a variety of uses including forest management, fire protection and recreation. In 2010, both forest roads were inspected once in the spring and fall for rutting damage or flooding issues. Annually, funding from the County Forest Road Aids Program goes directly toward the worst road issues and often pays for gravel and grading.

Goal #8:

To ensure that the county's parks, boat landings and trails are maintained in a safe, clean, and useable condition.

The county parks and trails provide tremendous opportunities for recreational pursuits and benefit to the local economy. The Land, Forestry and Park Department staff perform weekly inspections and cleaning of the county parks, boat landings, and the Omaha Bike Trail during the summer high-use season, May 15th to September 15th.

In 2010, The Wilson State Nursery provided us with 100 park stock trees as an experiment to plant in Wilderness and Castle Rock Park. Park stock trees are transplanted seedlings that are grown several more years, primarily for State Parks. We are finding these larger trees have better survival as they are more visible and less likely to be run over. The success of planting this larger park stock will be put to the test again with 100 more trees in 2011.

In 2010, Wilderness Park received a new mower to replace one that had become too costly to repair. The new mower has greatly reduced the time needed to completely mow the park grounds; this has enable park staff to work on other priorities such as fixing picnic tables and outhouses. Other improvement to Wilderness Park in 2010 included the completion of a retaining wall near the office building. Installation of the retaining wall has been instrumental in preventing further movement of earth toward the supporting timbers of the office.

No major projects were needed at Castle Rock Park in 2010. Further improvement of facilities at both Wilderness and Castle Rock Park will be the focus of 2011.

In 2010, the Land, Forestry and Parks Department jointly completed the Tunnel Road project with the Town of Fountain. Capital outlay funds from the Department were used to fix a culvert under tunnel road where washouts were a concern. Fixing the culvert not only improved the safety of the road but also redirected runoff away from the Omaha Bike Trail where it was previously causing mud and debris to gather on the trail surface.

Goal #9:

To ensure that Juneau County's section of the Hillsboro State Trail is managed and maintained in a safe, clean, and useable condition.

In 1988, Juneau County established itself as a partner in maintaining the 4.25 mile Hillsboro State Trail. Roughly two-thirds of the trail and all four trail bridges are located in Juneau. Seasonal park staff regularly inspects the trail for downed trees and arrange for the trail to be mowed twice a season. Grading of the limestone trail surface is also performed when needed. Since 2009, I've been working on replacing the three oldest bridges that span the West Branch of the Baraboo River along the trail grade. The bridge in the worst condition was replaced in October 2009, and in 2010 we applied and received another grant to replace the next bridge in most need. We anticipate completing all bridge projects on the Hillsboro State Trail with the next two years.

Goal #10:

To oversee the Juneau County's Snowmobile trail system and work closely with the Juneau County Snowmobile Council to provide safe snowmobile riding opportunities.

In 2010, 4 grants were submitted to the State Snowmobile Aids Program for the 2010-2011 season. We received funding all four grants, with a total of \$221,225.00 dollars awarded to the Juneau County snowmobile trail system. Projects included the regular snowmobile maintenance grant (\$59,925.00), and three snowmobile bridge construction grants (\$161,300.00).

As acting Juneau County Snowmobile Coordinator, I attended monthly meetings throughout 2010 with the Juneau County Snowmobile Council. One significant outcome of those meetings was the development of the new 2010-2012 Snowmobile Trail Map, produced with assistance from the Land Information Office. Seasonal park staff contributed to the 2010-2011 snowmobile season by spending several days fixing all the gates located on County Forest lands.

I continue to view our involvement in the snowmobile program as important to the community and local economy and enjoy collaborating with the Snowmobile Council on projects that enhance our trail system.

Goal #11: **To maintain our facilities and equipment.**

In the early spring of 2010, routine maintenance of all mowers, chainsaws, trucks and park equipment was achieved. The department shop is well equipped to allow our staff to perform oil changes and other normal maintenance work keeping our equipment operating properly and reducing expenses. Occasionally, non-routine repairs of equipment arise and are often skillfully handled by our seasonal park staff without the need to send the equipment to a mechanic.

During the 2010 summer, a much needed improvement to our Mauston shop was the completion of a workbench built to replace an old picnic table. This one simple project has helped us organize and use our shop area more effectively than any other in 2010.

Summary:

The 2010 year was a success in terms of completing many of our department goals and in delivering excellent recreational opportunities for the public. The year was also one in which both Castle Rock and Wilderness Park performed well in meeting their budgeted revenue goals and operated without issue. Use at the Bass Hallow shelter was also constant throughout the summer period as that park continues to see high demand on the weekends. With 2010 behind us we are eager to meet the challenges of a new year and look forward to new opportunities to improve our operations.

This report has been respectfully submitted for the LAND, FORESTRY, PARKS AND ZONING COMMITTEE.

Brian Loyd
Juneau County Forestry & Parks Administrator

Jerry Niles – Chairperson

David Arnold

Beverly Larson

Margaret Marchetti

Edmund Wafle